receptors linked [via one or more] to a polypeptide linker[s], wherein said polypeptide linker is covalently bonded to said extracellular domains via peptide bonds.

2. (Amended) The receptor molecule of Claim 1 wherein the [receptors] extracellular domains are selected from the group consisting of: the extracellular domain of a p75 tumor necrosis factor receptor and the extracellular domain of a p55 tumor necrosis factor receptor or functional portions thereof.

6. (Amended) The receptor molecule of Claim [5] 2 wherein the [two or more] extracellular domains of the tumor necrosis factor receptors are the same.

8. (Amended) Isolated DNA encoding a receptor molecule according to Claim 1. [which binds to tumor necrosis factor, comprising two or more sequences encoding all or a functional portion of the extracellular domain of tumor necrosis factor receptors linked via one or more sequences encoding a polypeptide linker.]

15. (Amended) A method of making a construct which expresses all or a functional portion of the extracellular domain of two or more tumor necrosis factor receptors linked [via] [one or more] to a polypeptide linker[s] comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a first vector which expresses all or a functional portion of an extracellular domain of a first tumor necrosis factor receptor and a signal peptide of a secreted protein;

b) obtaining a second vector which expresses all or a functional portion of an extracellular domain of a second tumor necrosis factor receptor; and

c) ligating the first vector of (a) to the second vector of (b) [via] using a coding sequence for a polypeptide linker

so that the first vector of (a) is linked to the second vector of (b) [via] using the coding sequence for the polypeptide linker resulting in a construct which expresses all or a functional portion of the extracellular domain of the first tumor necrosis factor receptor and all or a portion of the extracellular domain of the second tumor necrosis factor receptor linked [via] using the polypeptide linker.

16. (Amended) The method of Claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a first vector which codes for all or a functional portion of an extracellular domain of a first tumor necrosis factor receptor and signal peptide of a secreted protein linked to all or a functional portion of an extracellular domain of a second tumor necrosis factor receptor using a coding sequence for a polypeptide linker;

b) obtaining [one or more] a second vector[s] which [expresses] codes for [a second polypeptide linker and] all or a functional portion of an extracellular domain of a third tumor necrosis factor receptor ; and [, wherein the extracellular domain of the third tumor necrosis factor receptor is linked to the extracellular domain of the second tumor necrosis factor receptor via the second polypeptide linker.]

c) ligating the first vector of (a) to the second vector of (b) using a coding sequence for a polypeptide linker so that the first vector of (a) is linked to the second vector of (b) using the coding sequence for a polypeptide linker resulting in a construct which expresses all or a functional portion of the extracellular domain of the first tumor necrosis factor receptor and all or a portion of the extracellular domain of the second tumor necrosis factor receptor and all or a portion of the extracellular domain of the third tumor necrosis factor receptor all being linked using the first and second polypeptide linker.

17. (Amended) Cells which express a receptor molecule according to Claim 1.[which binds to tumor necrosis factor comprising all or a functional portion of the extracellular domain of two or more tumor necrosis factor receptors linked via one or more polypeptide linkers.]

19. (Amended) A method of inhibiting the biological activity of tumor necrosis factor comprising administering to a host [an effective] a TNF-inhibiting amount of a receptor molecule according to Claim 1. [which binds to tumor necrosis factor, the receptor comprising all or a functional portion of the extracellular domain of two or more tumor necrosis factor receptors linked via one or more polypeptide linkers.]